

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and following remarks.

The Official Action rejects Claims 1-5 as being anticipated by or unpatentable over German Patent Application Publication No. 10202371, hereinafter Spies.

As pointed out in a telephone conference with Examiner Lee, Spies is a foreign patent document, and thus qualifies as prior art no earlier than its August 7, 2003 publication date. However, this application's April 22, 2003 priority date antedates Spies. A verified translation of this application's priority document was filed on April 11, 2008.

Accordingly, Spies does not qualify as prior art with respect to this application, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-5 is respectfully requested.

New Claim 6 is allowable at least in view of its dependency from allowable Claim 1.

New Claim 7 recites a vehicle door handle device having a door handle including a hinge arm portion formed at one end of the door handle and pivotally mounted relative to a door outer panel via the hinge arm portion. The device also includes an electric part having a first face and a second face opposite to the first face, the electric part being received within an internal space of the door handle to abut an inner surface of the door handle at the first face and to form a gap between the inner surface of the door handle at the second face, and a first elastic member which is mounted on the second face of the electric part, and is disposed within the gap to be pressed against the inner surface of the door handle and the second face

of the electric part. Applicant respectfully submits that the above-discussed features recited in Claim 7 are also allowable.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully solicited.

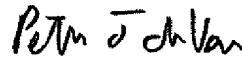
Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: August 12, 2008

By:



Matthew L. Schneider
Registration No. 32814

Peter T. DeVore
Registration No. 60361

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620